

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EDITION

# THE BELL RINGER



MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY  
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# BELIEVE IT!



# Tennessee Gubernatorial Race to be as Complicated as the Word “Gubernatorial”

By Jack Capizzi  
Editor in Chief

In eleven months and five days, Tennessee will elect its next governor. The next governor will be the state's fiftieth since 1796, and the excitement of the race could not be more fitting to mark the occasion.

While an article about an election that is a year away may seem ambitious and frankly unnecessary, coverage of this election has been heating up for over a year now. What began as a normal election procedure has turned into a flurry of candidates all vying for the same spot. Initially, in early 2017, there were one or two candidates from both the Republican and Democratic parties announcing that they would be entering the race. Since then, six candidates have announced their campaigns.

The red side of the aisle makes

the Department of Economics and Community Development for Tennessee, Beth Harwell, Tennessee Speaker of the House and MBA parent and board member, and Bill Lee, a prominent businessman. The three to watch out for are Harwell, Black, and Boyd. All three of these potential Governors have made large steps in establishing their hold over the state through endorsements and active campaigns.

So far, the most intriguing campaign stunt came from the Randy Boyd campaign, wherein Randy Boyd ran 537 miles from Bristol to Memphis, promoting his campaign along the way. Boyd stopped only for food, sleep, and the opportunity to meet his potential constituency. The 63-year-old, Forrest Gump wannabe, completed the journey in 100 days. His rate averaged out to just over four big red laps per day. The Bell Ringer's staff mathlete is still calculating his average speed out in “laps around the quad in Chariots of Fire per hour.” Boyd said of why he was running, “This way I can exercise and get to know the state at a very granular level and I can promote something that I will want to promote as governor, and that is a healthier Tennessee.”

The democratic candidate, Karl



**FAMILIAR TERRITORY:** Karl Dean is back on the campaign trail. The former Nashville Mayor is now running for Governor of the state of Tennessee.  
**PHOTO:** The Tennessean

**What began as a normal election procedure has turned into a flurry of candidates all vying for the same spot.**

up for most of the electoral chaos. Five republican candidates look to have their names adorn voting tickets throughout Tennessee come November of 2018. The candidates are Mae Beavers, a former State Senator, Diane Black, a U.S. Representative from Northeast Tennessee, Randy Boyd, the former Commissioner of

Dean, has all but secured his place as the opponent of whoever wins the republican primary. Dean previously served two terms as the mayor of Nashville from 2007 until 2015.

An important question to answer when reading this article is: why does any of this matter?

On a statewide level, the new governor will be leading the state for the next four to eight years. So, in 2022 or 2026, the state of Tennessee will be determined by the actions of whoever is elected. On a broader level, however, the new governor of Tennessee must represent the state to the rest of the country.

Over the past decade, American politics have undergone a drastic shift. The importance of personality has been raised to new heights while

the actual substance of a politician's tenure has taken a backseat. Also, the changing landscape of the United State's cultural makeup has led to increased polarization and division. How these factors are dealt with will be a telling sign of the success of each campaign.

As the election heats up, pay attention to what is written in The Tennessean or on the morning news. With Tennessee's Governor and Senate races dominating the headlines, Tennessee politics are playing a defining role not only on a statewide but nationwide. What may seem a boring, dull, and insignificant race is shaping up to be the most generation defining election in the history of Tennessee.

**A FLURRY OF CANDIDATES:** (Left to Right) Beth Harwell, Bill Lee, Diane Black, Randy Boyd, and Mae Beavers make up the five Republican candidates for governor of Tennessee. The republican Primary will be held in the summer of 2018 and the final election for Governor of Tennessee will be on November 6, 2018.







## Roberts Questions Green Zones

**By Mac Roberts**  
*Opinions Editor*

Every student on campus is familiar with the term “green zone.” Located in the library and the Lowry student center, the green zones are the only two areas on campus where you may use your cell phone during the school day. If you are caught using your phone anywhere else on campus, you risk receiving demerits.

Many MBA students have grown frustrated with this system. Although we’re grateful that the green zones have been put in place, as opposed to not having them at all, I would argue that students should be given more freedom to use our cellular devices.

Many students are wondering why the dining hall isn’t a green zone. If we are not in class, and thus phone usage isn’t affecting our studies, what harm would come from being able to check Instagram while eating lunch, or to look up a certain NFL player’s number of rushing yards to support your position in a friendly debate about football?

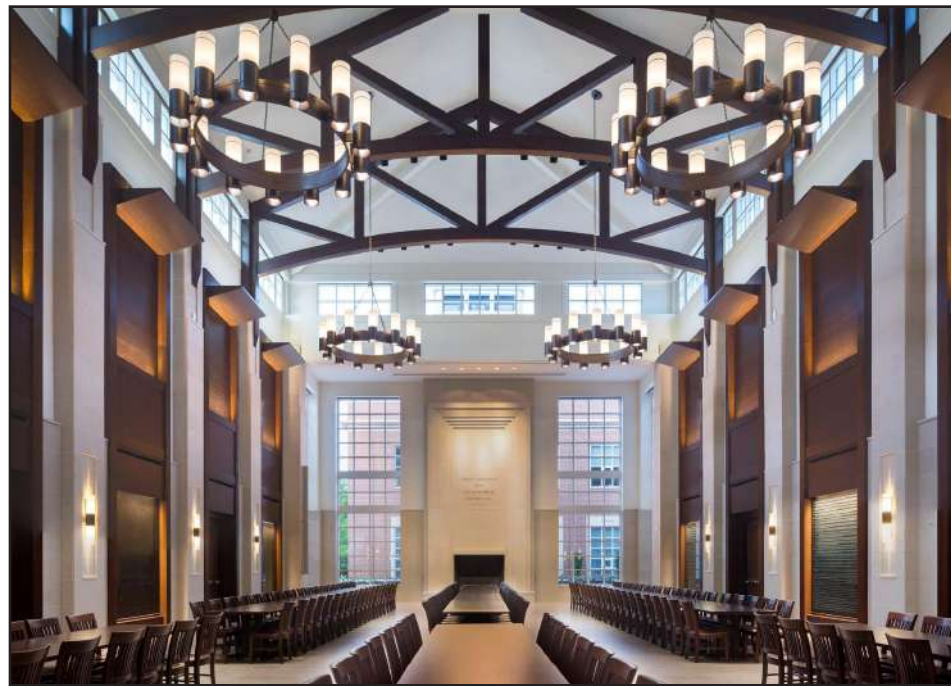
Picture this scenario: a certain freshman is sitting patiently outside Mr. Stewart’s classroom, waiting for class to begin. He decides to

pull his phone out and play some Clash of Clans. A teacher spots him, confiscates his phone for the rest of the day, and states that he will be receiving demerits. The student is left both wondering why what he did was wrong, and dreading having to attend demerit hall on the following Saturday.

**I would argue that students should be given more freedom to use our cellular devices.**

As long as usage of a cell phone in any particular circumstance is not affecting or interrupting our ability to learn material, I believe that students should be given freedom to use them. I propose that all cell phone usage outside of class be allowed.

I, of course, understand the administration’s well-meaning



**FUTURE GREEN ZONE?:** Roberts’ proposal would make the Dining Hall a Green Zone  
**PHOTO:** montgomerybell.edu

intent with their implementation of the green zone policy. They want students to be able to learn without hindrance and they also want students to respect teachers by giving them their undivided attention. However, I believe my proposal is in accordance with those wishes because as long as cell phones are being used outside of class, there is no impact on a student’s absorbing of the material being taught.

I would encourage our student body president, our student council, and our administration to meet and have a discussion about this matter. The students would greatly appreciate this rule being changed, and I believe that it would improve quality of student life at Montgomery Bell Academy.



# The Battle for Net Neutrality and Why You Should Care

**Robert Cowan**  
Webmaster

allow for “paid prioritization.”

With so much happening in the world right now, the last thing that people care about is their internet and why should they care about it so much. People pay a single price and they get anything they want to access. All websites and streaming services come at the same speeds, but that could all change if Ajit Pai and the Federal Communications Committee (FCC) decide to repel the Obama-era Net Neutrality regulations, protecting the consumer and the small businesses.

## What is net neutrality?

Net neutrality allows every website to be treated the same. Each connection is given the same priority with equal access to bandwidth so they run at the same speeds. The net neutrality prohibits internet service providers (ISPs) from limiting what people can do online. Net neutrality also allows for smaller companies to grow and not be shut out by bigger companies. Net neutrality also makes internet connections a Title II utility, meaning that ISPs would be treated like utility companies where they cannot prioritize any company’s data over another or

**What happens if net neutrality is repelled? And why it matters to you.**

If net neutrality is repelled, ISPs could start charging a lot more for internet access. Internet packages would become a thing where, just like TV packages, certain sub categories would be made of different websites and services. For example, there could be a social media package, video package, and a gaming package. All the package would have extra prices on top of them making the internet more expensive for consumers. There are already examples of what companies could do without net neutrality in place. An example many articles are showing is in Portugal, where a company has created five different categories each costing an extra 5 euros. ISPs



**COMING UNDER FIRE:** Federal Communications Committee (FCC) Spokesperson, Ajit Pai, has recieved harsh criticism for planning to axe Net Neutrality. **PHOTO:** Ars Technica

could also start to charge companies for data speeds, and big companies like Google or Netflix could effectively kill their financially strained competition. For example, let’s say MBA wanted to have faster speeds for their site. MBA could pay Comcast or AT&T a high price to give MBA’s site priority over Ensworth’s site. By giving MBA the higher speeds, Ensworth’s site could fall into oblivion. Yes, that is a bad example. A better example can be found regarding Amazon video and Netflix. Netflix could pay millions to have Amazon’s speeds lowered. In turn, in order to try to gain their lost speed Amazon would pay more. This bidding war would not be good for the consumer because they would end up paying more and more as the company tries desperately to keep their speeds.

CenturyLink. These companies would be the only ones to really benefit from the end of net neutrality, not the small companies serving the rural communities. Netflix or Amazon would invest in paying the major broadband providers the big bucks, killing the smaller ISPs. With the smaller companies out of the way, the large companies could move closer to a monopoly or duopoly in the US.

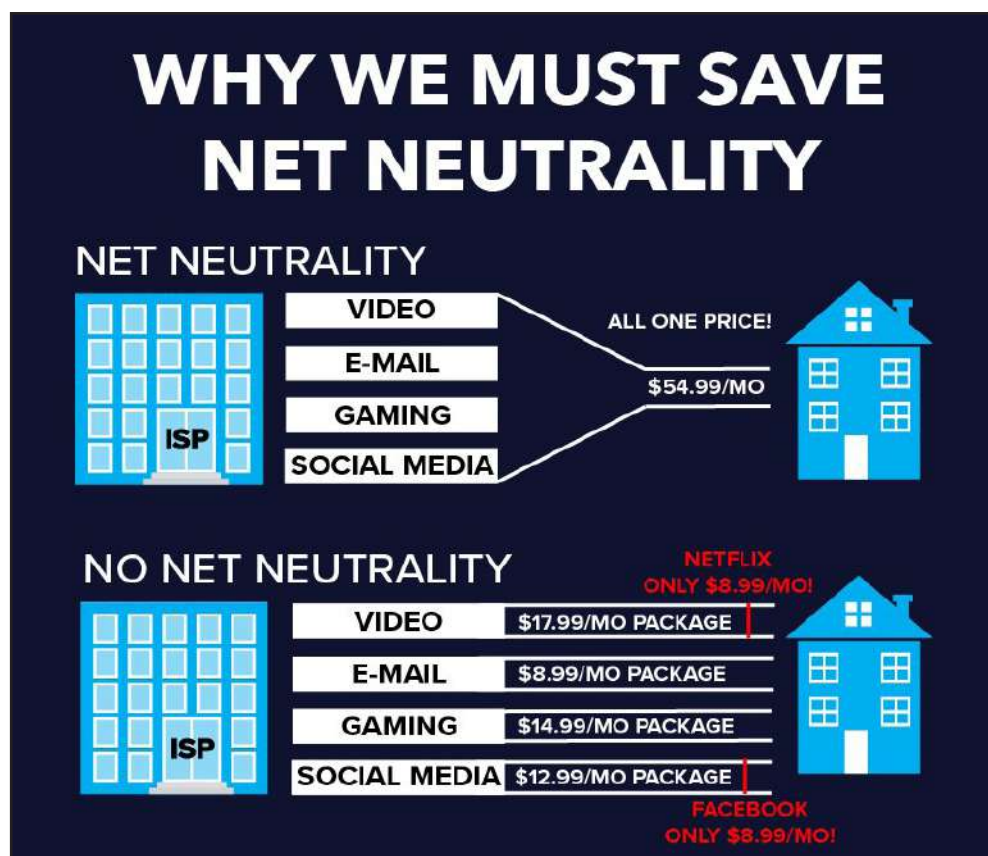
## What’s next?

On December 14, the FCC will most likely overturn the Title II net neutrality rules. The only way net neutrality rules stay in place would be if Congress would step in to stop the FCC, but that will most likely not happen. When/if the rules are changed it could take awhile before the consumer sees a change as many court challenges would be tried in order to delay the process. The future of how the internet is run is at stake and by most accounts the end of net neutrality could be a very detrimental thing if handled poorly. If further clarification is needed,

## Could anything good come from the end of net neutrality?

According to Ajit Pai, the chairman of the FCC, the end of net neutrality would see a rise in competition in the IPS world. His claim, however, is hard for many to imagine. In the US, there are a handful of major providers that dominate the market; Comcast, AT&T, Charter, Verizon, Google, and

**A CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSITION:** The plan to end Net Neutrality has sparked criticism over the stranglehold it will give ISP’s on Internet Access. **GRAPHIC:** Ro Khanna





# Two Sides of the Story: NFL Protests

*Pro:*

By Ben Coulthard  
Editor in Chief

Colin Kaepernick first took a knee on August 14 in 2016 to bring attention to police brutality and oppression. Fast forward over a year later to Week 12 of the NFL in 2017, and almost 30 players peacefully protested in some way during the national anthem. This form of protesting, where prominent American citizens have a voice and choose to use it, express their concern using their First Amendment rights after many thought the protests would die out. These NFL players who have followed Kaepernick in taking a stand—or rather a knee—must continue doing so until their voices are truly heard by the owners in the NFL and by people nationwide.

Opponents continue to lash out against the protests. They claim the protests are “unpatriotic” or that they disrespect the military. Some call the athletes who protest ignorant, but these critics are those who are truly ignorant. Many of the protesting athletes have given the media their cause for protesting, whether it be to raise awareness towards police brutality, oppression of minorities, or to protest the President’s hateful speech towards them and other teammates. Their means of protest is not a disrespect to members of the military, a common barb thrown out at players who protest, rather it is to raise awareness toward civil rights issues that are somehow still an issue in the United States more than fifty years after activists such as Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for basic human decency for African-Americans living in America.

To discredit the claim that the protests were to disrespect the American flag or the military, some players who had previously kneeled decided to stand during the anthem during Veterans Day weekend. The Titans own Rishard Matthews, who normally stayed in the team locker room during the anthem, chose not to protest the anthem and instead walked out onto the field holding hands with soldiers. There is no reason for people to say there is no meaning behind the protests when their motives for protests have been clearly outlined. All it takes is the ability to listen to understand why the protesting players do what they do each week.

New reasons to protest have arisen since the Kaepernick began taking a knee. At a meeting between NFL owners regarding the national

anthem protests, Texans owner Bob McNair got caught saying “We can’t have the inmates running the prison.” It’s one thing for the players to tune out the noise of people who don’t know what they are put through on a day-to-day basis, but when their employers make off color comments comparing them to prisoners, players wonder just how people they thought they could trust really feel about them.

## The biggest takeaway people can take from the anthem protests is the message, not the means.

The biggest motivator behind many players participating in the anthem protests came after Donald Trump was quoted saying that NFL owners should fire players who take a knee during the national anthem. Trump said, “Wouldn’t you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say, ‘Get that son of a b---- off the field right now, out. He’s fired. He’s fired!’” This divisive rhetoric that Trump spewed only united the players even more. The first weekend in the NFL after Trump’s comments saw a member of almost every team take a knee, raise a fist, or find some way to protest the president’s contentious comments. Trump responded saying that the kneeling protests were the reason for poor ratings for the NFL this year. Is it time to ask that maybe it’s due to the lackluster effort put forth by some teams on any given Sunday? And yet, there remain quarterbacks playing in the NFL who are of lower quality and are statistically worse than Kaepernick. Just saying.

The biggest takeaway people can take from the anthem protests is the message, not the means. People with the same message Kaepernick have tried to spread their message through word of mouth or on the news, but to no avail. Dialogue regarding reform in civil rights and oppression of minorities has become more intense since the anthem protests began. The protests have also given citizens the opportunity to look at the message behind them and wonder if their personal opinions about the protests were wrong all along. USA Today/Suffolk University released a poll right after Trump’s comments that showed 51% of those surveyed thought the protests were appropriate. The poll also showed that 68%

agreed that Trump’s comments that called for owners to fire players who protested were inappropriate. The public is taking notice, and the players who protest are finally having their message heard.

*Con:*

By Jack Capizzi  
Editor in Chief

On Sunday, November 19, Marshawn Lynch sat during the United States’ national anthem and stood during the Mexican National Anthem. His decision reflects the ignorance and misunderstanding that has corroded this ill-fated movement.

I must preface this article by emphasizing a belief in the right of protest. No citizen should have their ability to peacefully protest an institution, law, or person halted in any way. When a person decides to take a knee to any form of perceived injustice, however, their protest must be scrutinized.

Dividing Lynch’s protest into two halves reveals the lack of sincerity that underlies the entire movement to kneel during the national anthem. The decision to protest the Star-Spangled Banner comes from a desire to draw attention to, as Colin Kaepernick has previously stated, “a country that oppresses black people and people of color.” From this basic description, it seems that Lynch, Kaepernick, and their fellow protesters have a genuine claim for their anger and protest. Examining Lynch’s decision to stand for the Mexican national anthem, reveals the insincerity behind the movement. Whereas the United States recognized its black population as citizens with the ratification of the 14th Amendment in 1868, Mexico did not recognize its black citizens until 2016. Mexico’s suspect treatment of its afro-Hispanic population has long been one of the many flaws that has tainted the Mexican society. There is no question that the United States has committed its own crimes against people of color, however, Lynch would merely need to crack open an MBA Sophomore’s copy of *Give Me Liberty!* by Eric Foner to realize his mistake.

Another damaging blow to the NFL protests came when

Michael Bennett, a defensive end for the Seattle Seahawks, accused the Las Vegas Police Department of threatening to kill him and holding a gun to his head all because of the color of his skin. Bennett stated, “I’m going to die for no reason other than I am black and my skin color is a threat.” After the LVPD released video of the incident, it was clear that Michael Bennett was lying. Almost everything in his statement can be proved wrong by a simple

## An obtrusive inconsistency of the movement has been the vagueness of its intention.

internet search of the video of his arrest. The only accuracy is that he was detained by the police and not because of his race. The police were called after shots were fired inside of a casino that was occupied by Bennett along with many other black people. So, Bennett could not have been singled out because of his race. Also, when Bennett was approached by the police, he ran away from them and jumped over a four-foot barrier. Later in his statement, Bennett compares himself by name to actual victims of police brutality. That he would falsify an entire incident to support an agenda of protest severely undermines the statement that he and other protesters have been trying to make.

An obtrusive inconsistency of the movement has been the vagueness of its intention. From initial questions about what the actual concerns of the movement were to unspecified wishes of change, the public value placed on the movement has waned. At the moment, the movement seems to be directed at the league ownership and not at an “oppressive” American system.

Every citizen should be encouraged to protest what he or she believes is wrong. If your protest is fraught with ignorance, division, and lies, however, you should expect criticism. In the final months of the NFL season, emphasis must be placed on how the protests continue. Will they die out from a lack of unity or will they finally outline what adjustments they wish to be made with the current system?





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## Hand Picked Quotes to Get You Through Exams from Your Editors

You cannot learn from books. Replace the pages with life lessons and then you will have a book that is worth its weight in gold.

- Michael Scott, *The Office*

I'll tell you how I feel about school; It's a waste of time, a bunch of people running around, bumping into each other.

Guy up front says, "Two plus two." The people in the back say, "Four." Then the bell rings, and they give you a carton of milk and a piece of paper that says you can use the toilet or something. I mean, it's—it's not a place for smart people.

- Rick, *Rick and Morty*

It's almost like my work here's done. I can't imagine Jesus going, "Oh, I've told a few people in Bethlehem I'm the son of God, can I just stay here with Mum and Dad now?" No. You gotta move on. You gotta spread the word. You gotta go to Nazareth, please.

- David Brent, *The Office (U.K.)*

The field mouse is fast, but the owl sees at night.

- Grandpa Chip, *Talladega Nights*

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JOIN OUR TEAM!

Contact Jack Capizzi, Ben Coulthard, Palmer Thombs, or Mr. Bassett if you are interested.



# The Politicization of ESPN And Sports Media

By Ben Coulthard  
Editor in Chief

The phrase “Worldwide Leader in Sports” has been ESPN’s tagline for many years, but current controversy surrounding the ESPN brand has many in the sports entertainment industry wondering, has the sports media giant finally lost its hold as the best?

The beginning of the end began in 2012 when ESPN and Disney Media Networks (who is an 80 percent owner of ESPN) hired John Skipper to become the president and co-chairman of ESPN. Skipper has since been at the forefront of recent news headlines concerning the behavior of ESPN employee Jemele Hill. Hill, who co-hosts SportsCenter, tweeted about Donald Trump claiming that his rise to the presidency was a direct result of white supremacy in America, as well as about Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, indirectly telling her followers to boycott the Cowboys and their advertisers after Jones announced his players would not be allowed to participate in national anthem protests.

Skipper and ESPN suspended Hill for two weeks, claiming it was due to “a second violation of social media policy.” ESPN also released statements saying Hill’s statements “did not represent the network’s position” and also that they “had addressed the issue with Hill.” But was ESPN really of a differing opinion as Hill concerning

anthem protests and the rise of the controversial president? Skipper sent an internal memo after Hill’s suspension to ESPN employees saying that employees are allowed to discuss political matters publicly, but they must do so following the company’s social media guidelines.

These guidelines warn employees on political commentary, asking that they are limited to topics “related to a current issue impacting sports” which therefore means Hill’s tweets about the president were a violation of company policy. ESPN also now requires employees to ask a supervisor prior to posting anything on social media regarding political views or commentary. So now the question comes: At what point should ESPN limit its employees and its brand from talking politics as a sports brand?

In today’s age, there is no escaping the talk about politics in sports. While NFL anthem protests continue as a means to challenge police brutality as well as Donald Trump, ESPN will have to include talking politics. Yet, there is no need for them to include politics and their views in everything they produce. Consumers want to see highlights of last night’s football game or hear analysis on whatever is going on in the sports world. Many want “the old ESPN” where Stuart Scott could be heard nightly yelling one of his catchphrases over a highlight reel.



**WORLDWIDE LEADER NO MORE?:** ESPN’s inability to keep separate its sports analysis and political views has greatly hindered its viewership numbers.

Yet if ESPN continues to intertwine politics with sports on a daily basis, consumers will change how they consume sports. In just the last five years, ESPN has lost 10 million subscribers (Nielsen Media Research) and more subscribers continue to move towards brands like Barstool Sports and Clay Travis’ Outkick the Coverage. These brands are the anti-ESPN, who build their coverage knowing that consumers are sick of political talk and just want to get their sports updates. Barstool has even gained traction in the last month due to ESPN’s mismanagement of programming, mainly due to a partnership between the two brands that was doomed from the start.

Barstool Van Talk was a late night show on ESPN2 hosted by two popular Barstool personalities, Dan Katz (known better as Big Cat) and PFT Commenter. ESPN agreed to let two of Barstool’s most popular personalities be the stars of the show, hoping they could draw viewers in the 18-25 year old range, the demographic that Big Cat and PFT’s popular podcast *Pardon My*

*Take* attracts. However, the show aired its premiere episode and got abruptly canceled before it could air its second episode. Once again, John Skipper made headlines after announcing the cancellation of the show claiming “I erred in assuming we could distance our efforts from the Barstool site and its content.” Did Skipper truly think that Barstool, whose main target audience consists of college-aged kids, would change its content because they were broadcasting a show on a rival network? Probably not, but it was an interesting way to put things, as the show did well for its 2 AM time slot and the reception for the show was generally well-liked.

However, it came out that ESPN personality Sam Ponder put pressure on ESPN executives to get rid of the show. Ponder conveniently tweeted right around the time of the show’s premiere, linking an old Barstool article written by Barstool’s founder Dave Portnoy, one that referenced rather graphic and lewd language about Ponder. However, Ponder incorrectly credited the article to Big Cat. In no way was what Portnoy wrote acceptable, but it was rather apparent that Ponder wanted to refuel a feud from 2014, causing the controversial article to resurface as Barstool personalities took over ESPN airwaves. Once again, ESPN took over using what some called “PC culture” and wouldn’t allow two of Barstool’s least controversial employees to potentially advance ESPN to a higher level.

At this point, it is clear that ESPN’s brand is failing as the numbers outline its decline as the “worldwide leader in sports” and at some point, people like John Skipper will have to take a step back and look at what changes need to be made within the company to try and return to its premier status.

**BATTLING IT OUT:** ESPN’s Sam Ponder and Barstool Sports’ founder Dave Portnoy had strong words for each other after Ponder tweeted out a link of an old controversial Barstool article right as “Barstool Van Talk” was set to premiere on ESPN’s network. **PHOTO: USA Today**





# Club Spotlight: Will Evans Explains the Strategy Club

**Interview By Harrison Kidd**  
Staff Writer

**Harrison Kidd: When did you first become interested in strategy games?**

Will Evans: I used to be really into building and painting models when I was younger. So, one day in 2011 I went to Phillip's Toy Mart down on Harding Road to see if there were any models that'd pique my interest. When I got to the model aisle, I found one of the workers stocking the shelves dedicated to a miniature war game called Warhammer 40,000. He asked me if I played Warhammer, and I replied that I had no idea what it was. He then proceeded to explain the basics of the game and how it was both a modelling hobby and a strategic war game. That's where my interest began. I don't play Warhammer anymore, as it's absurdly expensive, but I did get a good few years of fun out of it, plus it got me into painting scale figures, which I still do to this day.

**HK: What is your favorite strategy game and why?**

WE: My favorite strategy game would probably be the RPG Shadowrun. The setting, which is a combination of a futuristic cyberpunk dystopia and magic, I find to be incredible interesting, which is unsurprising given that I'm a cyberpunk junkie and write in the genre myself. The game also has really interesting mechanics that allow for real freedom in creating characters and playing them.

**HK: What inspired you to create a club about strategy games?**

WE: My inspiration for the club itself came primarily from the fact that nothing like the club existed

of Catan, but I have formulated Dungeons and Dragons groups that I hope to get up and running soon. The club is still getting off the ground, but I hope the foundation Mr. Berry and I build this year will last for many years to come.

become a reality. Dr. Lech has also been crucial in rallying the support of other teachers, as well as incorporating Magic: The Gathering into the club. Plus, they both have ample supplies of games that keep the club's options open.



**YOUR MOVE:** Will Evans and the Strategy Club are open to all games and encourage students to come to a meeting with whatever they wish to play.

**PHOTO:** PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

at MBA. I've always heard from people that they were interested in playing games like Dungeons and Dragons, but could never convince their friends to play with them. I figured why not just create a place at school where students can get together with their peers and play the game of their choice.

**HK: Tell me about the club itself, how it works, what do you think is important about it?**

WE: The club itself is very open. I've made sure to tell everyone that they're free to suggest any game or event they would like to set up, as I do not want to restrict anyone's gaming; doing so would go against the very reason I created the club. So far, we haven't done much beyond a simple game of Settlers

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**I do not want to restrict anyone's gaming. Doing so would go against the very reason I created the club.**

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**HK: Have Mr. Berry and Dr. Lech been an inspiration to you throughout this process?**

WE: They've both been very helpful in establishing the club, despite being very busy themselves. Mr. Berry has been a great source of ideas for the club, some of which will hopefully

**HK: Explain 'D&D' in a 'for dummies' fashion.**

WE: Dungeons and Dragons is a fantasy role playing game, which, in its essence is a game in which you create a character and go on an adventure. The game requires no boards or miniatures, only some dice, pens, papers, and an imagination. One player takes the role of the Dungeon Master and creates an adventure/storyline in which the players embark on quests and slay monsters. Think like a very Tolkien-esque sandbox.

**HK: What else are you involved in around the hill?**

WE: I've been a member of the rifle team since the 8th grade and also work for ARCHIVES and frequently participate in the Red Poets Society.

**HK: Does your love for strategy and this genre of games bleed into other subjects such as movies and video games?**

WE: Needless to say, I'm a huge nerd, so absolutely. I've put more hours into some games than I'd care to admit and my tastes in movies and literature are noticeably on the science fiction side of things.



# Building Bridges: Senior Isaac Wills Speaks About USN Experience

By Isaac Wills  
Entertainment Editor

On Monday, November 13, I had the unique opportunity to go to the University School of Nashville as a guest speaker and a student shadow. This “exchange” was the fruition of what had been nearly six months of planning and discussion between USN senior Talia Barton and myself. My visit as reporter for *The Bell Ringer* marked the first of its kind in terms of MBA-USN interactions.

I was officially hosted by USN’s Feminism Club, a relatively new group to USN’s organizational landscape. “Feminism Club started a year or two before I was a freshman,” Talia noted. “The club usually had around five members at each meeting. As the current leaders and I took over the club our sophomore year, we tried to include a wider range of topics that people were interested in discussing. Now our meetings have anywhere from ten to thirty people.”

Under the purview of the Feminism Club, Talia and I hoped that my talking in a Q&A format would provide participating USN students with a fresh perspective to their regular topics. An ulterior motive was to foster improved inter-school relations.

Talia leads alongside fellow seniors Evelyn TeSelle, Ella Varney, and Abby Varney, and I would be remiss to disregard their hospitality and curiosity throughout the endeavor.

When I asked Talia about the Feminism Club’s mission statement, she shared, “[We aim] to create an environment that allows people to discuss topics not usually discussed in a classroom setting and to foster open discussion around issues in our community and around the world.”

She would later add, “We hosted relevant speakers who discussed topics such as reproductive health, women in STEM, Title IX, and women in literature.” Needless to say, I was not sure where I fit into that line-



**TRADING IDEAS:** Senior Isaac Wills answers a question from USN senior Evelyn TeSelle. The question and answer segment of his visit was just one of the ways that Wills was able to share perspectives on both USN and MBA.

PHOTO: Talia Barton

up.

My visit incorporated three primary components: a campus tour, a shadow of a class, and the discussion with the Feminism Club.

The campus tour shed some light on the physical and cultural differences between the two schools. Certain contrasts were evident immediately upon my arrival to campus—the girls, the relaxed dress code, the self-contained layout of the campus itself. Other distinctions, however, were more nuanced. For example, USN has unisex bathrooms, a sign of their institutional sensitivity toward gender-related issues.

As part of the tour, I attended Dr. Wheeler’s AP English Literature class. While Dr. Wheeler’s class most certainly does not represent USN classroom dynamics as a whole, I was struck by some of subtle differences between how her class ran

and how my AP English class is operated. For example, I found there to be more student

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**“[The Feminism Club] aims to create an environment that allows people to discuss topics not usually discussed in a classroom.”**

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participation as well as distracted side-conversation in Dr. Wheeler’s class—perhaps two sides of the same coin.

The Feminism Club meeting transpired during the students’ lunch block, with about forty

students present. We met in Dr. Wheeler’s classroom, a well-lit, open space with a glass back wall opening to USN’s main parking lot. The students sat around in a circle, and we promptly began the discussion.

I opened, introducing myself and stating, “I hope you dare to get to know who I am beyond a mere stereotype.” I emphasized how I was there to learn from them just as much as they were there to learn from me. It was to be a reciprocal exchange.

The leaders had asked me some preliminary questions, so I addressed those first. Initial inquiries such as, “What are topics in mainstream feminism that you relate or do not relate to?” or “What is your personal definition of feminism?” served as icebreakers by which I could convey myself to the group.

“Dynamism,” I said. “It’s a movement concerned with



>>> **continued from page 10**

adaptability in light of the changing face of society. It's about taking affirmative action against social injustices."

Furthermore, I likened the many variants of feminism to the many denominations of Protestantism. I cited how one of Protestantism's strengths lies in its ability to adapt to the challenges of modern situations. Yet, Protestantism's multifaceted nature can distract from what is at the core of Christianity. Likewise, feminism is a diverse umbrella with many subsidiary "pocket movements," which, in my opinion, can sometimes distract from the movement's aims.

The questions then became more MBA-specific. One of the leaders asked, "What was the general attitude towards Hillary Clinton at MBA?" Another questioned, "What ways, if any, could MBA improve education about equal rights and feminism?"

To the former, I specifically mentioned my grade's mock-election, a poll which yielded a result of 40% Republican, 30% Democrat, 30% Third Party/Undecided. As for the second question, I noted that while MBA

does not have a feminism club, the school actively partakes in joint-discussions with Harpeth Hall on a variety of topics that have dealt with contemporary feminism and social injustice.

There was also a slew of questions asked on the spur-of-the-moment, and admittedly, I did not have answers to all of them. One girl asked me about "slut-shaming" with regards to clothing. I balked, mentioning that it was not a prevalent issue in light of the absence of girls at MBA.

One person asked a question that stood out to me in particular: how are MBA students able to explore feminism and support the movement given the obvious lack of girls on campus? I concurred that perspectives on feminism are naturally harder to find, so MBA students must take a certain level of intentionality in seeking out individuals outside of campus and develop empathy for women's issues.

That being said, I resisted the notion that MBA cultivates insensitive students. I emphasized the remarkable bond that MBA students have with one another. Although MBA perhaps does not celebrate individual differences in

the same way that USN does, there is a strong culture of acceptance, a quality of the school which I find underrated.

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## I resisted the notion that MBA cultivates insensitive students. I emphasized the remarkable bond that MBA students have with one another.

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Afterwards, I was privileged to hear some of the feedback from the club's leaders. One shared, "[Isaac] seemed genuinely interested in learning about experiences that are different than his, and I thought people took advantage of the opportunity to ask him questions and learn about how social issues are dealt with at a school that isn't as focused on social activism as USN is."

Regarding this final assumption, I would offer a qualification. I recognize the tremendous job that USN students do in upholding a high commitment to speak against injustice, but I believe MBA is as focused on social activism, albeit through a different medium.

MBA upholds a tradition of practical social activism through community service. The Service Club is a significant part of the culture at MBA, and it has served as a platform for students to explore their calling in the community vis-à-vis dozens of projects. Students are also encouraged and supported in their efforts to found new projects.

But, my modest disagreement in this instance is emblematic of why I went to USN in the first place: to build bridges, to learn of the school's strengths and weaknesses, to share those of MBA, and to open a conversation about how students at the two schools can learn from each other and work together. In this day, it's an all too vanishing skill.

**A DIVERSE AUDIENCE:** Isaac Wills' visit to the University School was highly anticipated. His presence in the Feminism Club drew a large audience of Tigers, ready to pounce on his every word.  
**PHOTO:** Talia Barton







**AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL:** The above image shows plans from the “Save Nashville Parks” organization to keep Ft. Negley intact with minor alterations. **PHOTO:** SNP



**PHOTO:** Battle of Nashville Preservation Society

**HISTORY IN REAL LIFE:** The Fort Negley site has remained a part of Civil War history in Nashville.  
**PHOTO:** Philip Scholer



# Preserving

## By Philip

**Associate Editor Philip Scholer examines the land where historic Fort Negley sits and how the city and developers to decide what**

As I looked back at Fort Negley, it appeared the same as it always had, but I sensed a difference in the dry October air: a fierce urgency to protect the fort once more. Built in 1862 by 2,771 contraband laborers as a Union stronghold, Fort Negley stands as a reminder of Nashville’s Civil War history. Today, though, the future of Fort Negley is in doubt. The city seeks to build large-scale commercial development on the 21 acres of Fort Negley Park that includes the portion leased by the Nashville Sounds starting in the 1970s. It is a city park, and thus not protected by national park status. In the eyes of some developers, Fort Negley has little relevance to the present, and its crumbling stone walls overrun by invasive species detract from the potential of the land. However in those weeds and crumbling stones lies Fort Negley’s symbolism: its physical state and the very debate over the 21 acres represent the politically and culturally divided nation of the Civil War era and beyond. While acknowledging this history, some question how its

remembrance would progress and benefit the surrounding community more than commercial development. To answer this question, we turned to campus Fort Negley expert, Dr. Bailey. Bouncing out of his chair at the mention of Fort Negley, Dr. Bailey told us that “Fort Negley Park could become a powerful site both of interpretation of the Union strategy in the Western theater and of the story of emancipation which unfolded here and a few other places under Union control that were accessible to large numbers of enslaved peoples. Fort Negley became a gateway in the difficult journey from slavery to freedom.”

As Dr. Bailey talked, I considered the meaning of digging and cutting weeds at Fort Negley: to progress, we must first uncover the dirt and mistakes of the past. In digging into the dirt and prejudices of Nashville’s past, we see a familiar picture. The racial inequality that the contraband laborers worked

**You were built by the hands of  
Free, your craftsmanship remains  
Your foundation was built with  
As you majestically sit**

**Once a Union stronghold tall and  
Your remains became  
The sounds of the bugles rally the  
Of a divided past with**

**You whisper silently from your own  
Your “treasure’s history”  
There is a rebirth in you for the  
From our ancestors**

**Your[sic] in our hands now, a task  
“City of Nashville,” we**

**You fortify our thoughts in your  
Mark for the future to see, once  
Of our city, a place  
- Gary**



# Fort Negley

## to Scholer

is the current controversy concerning the  
d the battle between conservationists  
at is to be done with the area.

under to build the fort still burdens  
the communities surrounding Fort  
Negley. In a variation of the urban  
renewal around Fort Negley in the  
1960s, the proposed commercial  
development would become part of  
the gentrification that economically  
pressures today's black families to  
move. The archaeological remnants  
of the past and its racial inequality  
include bullets, entrenchments, and  
the remains of contraband camps.  
To disregard these remnants from the  
past leads to accepting an unequal  
future. In preserving the fort and the  
adjacent land, we can make progress  
from our past by honoring the work  
and struggle of black Americans – a  
history that is too often left out of  
Nashville's remembrance of the Civil  
War.

A few weeks ago, a group of  
students spent Saturday morning  
honoring the contributions of the  
contraband laborers. To honor the  
2,771 contraband laborers, the group  
planted 2,771 American flags in the

grass in front of Fort Negley. During  
the planting, we met Gary Burke, a  
board member of the Friends of Fort  
Negley and a descendant of a USCT  
soldier stationed at Fort Negley. Mr.  
Burke shared a poem he wrote about  
Fort Negley that can be found below.

While recognizing the  
contributions of Tennesseans like  
Andrew Jackson and James K.  
Polk, the lives of those who have  
been unfairly treated must also be  
remembered, because they too are  
an inexorable part of our history.  
The story of Tennessean Andrew  
Johnson's presidency should also  
be told, as well as that of 2,771  
contraband laborers' difficult struggle  
and search for their promised  
freedom.

Dr. Bailey notes, "At Fort Negley  
Park, we can tell in a fuller and  
more meaningful way the story of  
our city's and our nation's difficult  
but redemptive story of the journey  
from slavery freedom. Nashville  
should embrace this opportunity, not  
squander it by allowing for the  
privatization of the 21 acres of Fort  
Negley Park."

of the oppressed and some men  
ins for future generations to see  
n stone, wood, and railroad steel  
upon "St. Cloud Hill"

and bold, threw [sic] countless  
e "tattered and old,"  
e troops no more, just the echoes  
ve must not ignore

nce vibrant past, to make known  
that we humbly unmask,  
he ages to see, handed down  
their "legacy to be"

nk certainly not forsaken, for the  
all have gallantly taken.

r new beginnings, leaving your  
a "mighty fortress" in the heart  
called Fort Negley  
Burke



PHOTO: Philip Scholer

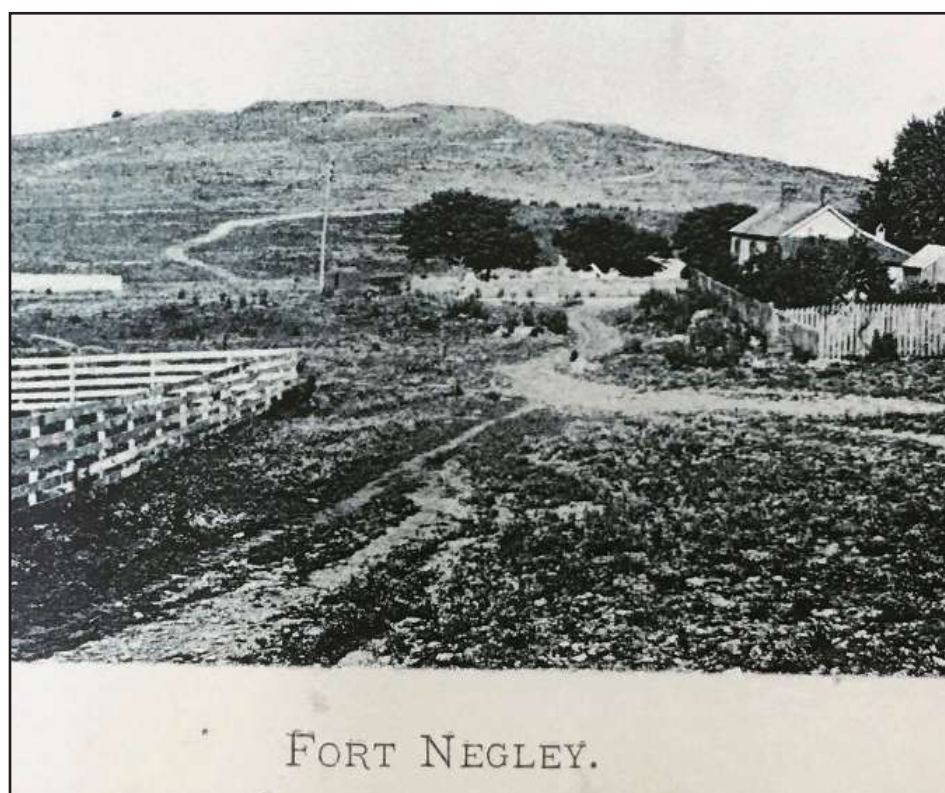


PHOTO: Battle of Nashville Preservation Society

**LOYAL SOLDIERS:** Led by the history department's own Dr. Clay Bailey, MBA students keep fighting to ensure the historic Ft. Negley site does not get turned into commercial development.

PHOTO: Philip Scholer





# Progression and Regression: A Look Back at the Robotics Team's Wild Season

By Walker Byrd  
Staff Writer

On October 28, 2017, the sky was enveloped in a silvery overcast which blanketed the entire state. On this day, before Dawn rose, the Big Red Robotics team was frantically working on the finishing touches to compete in the 2017 Music City BEST robotics tournament at Lipscomb University. The air was tense. Students and coaches were furiously working around the clock making last minute preparations for the competition. Time was slipping away, and the machine was still not complete. Drills were used, duct tape was slapped on, and students were running around the Robotics room searching for the one screwdriver they needed. These were stressful times.

Six weeks prior, the team arrived at the university campus to commence the building phase for the competition, as well as learn the rules and conditions of the event itself. When they arrived, they learned the competition's goals and stipulations. Themed on using robots for industrial fire control and rescue, the playing field is a twenty-four foot square with multiple different concentric zones. The outermost area is called the "cold zone." This zone is where all robots start at each round, and all can move freely in this area. Closer to the center is

the "hot zone." Unlike the cold zone, only the robot designated to a specific color can enter a certain quadrant at a certain time, while no other robot can enter that specific quadrant. The innermost zone, the no-entry zone, can not be reached by any means and represents a burning building. The game is points based, with a maximum possibility of 600 points earned per round. Points can be earned in three ways: rescuing a small manikin from the hot zone and placing him in a stretcher within a certain amount of time, transporting cans filled with golf balls to a containment area, and launching hollow golf balls towards cups in the center zone that represent flames. With the information accumulated, the team got to work.

During the six weeks between opening day and the competition, the team went straight to work. They began to plan and debate which methods would be the most reliable to complete the tasks at hand. After roughly a week debating and discussing different solutions, a consensus was made. For the design, A claw system would function both as a means of grabbing the manikin, amusingly named Manny, and the metal cans. Additionally, two small plates bolted onto one claw, designed by both 7th grader Lain Orndorff and 10th grader Walker Byrd, would function as a way to increase grip

on Manny, making the claw mechanism more reliably grab the helpless manikin. A mangonel, designed by team captain Sam Decoster, would also be placed on top of the robot to launch the golf balls and knock down the cups, but the task of knocking down the cups was given less priority, due to its unreliability and overall

point yield compared to the two other tasks. With this design in mind, the team worked as one to have a fully functioning machine completed by the given date.

A long six weeks later, the team was making the last arrangements on the eve of the competition, during the waning hours of a lively Friday evening. The robot was still not completely finished, and drivers still needed to be chosen. Due to the time crunch, the drivers had to show up at MBA in the wee hours of Saturday morning, and the ones chosen were 11th graders Brandon Hall, Brandon Lewis, and Michael Owings as well as the 10th graders Pete Rowlett and Walker Byrd. In addition to these 5 drivers, a spotter, a member responsible for making adjustments to the robot on the field, was appointed with 11th grader Nathan Goodrum assuming that role. With drivers and spotters assigned, the team was finally ready to compete.

It was time for the competition. The odds were stacked against MBA. Long time champions of the competition, including but not limited to Merrol Hyde Magnet School, appeared again to wipe the floor. The team did not even plan to beat that school; they simply



**THE TERMINATOR:** Final mockup of the robot, created mostly by Pete Rowlett and Nathaniel Goodrum

did not have the manpower to best them. Instead, the team set their own goal: to have a functioning machine that lasted for the entire duration of the competition.

When first arriving, problems already began to arise. While test driving during the practice round, the rail piece holding the two claws together failed, resulting in the machine's inability to grab either the manikin or the cans. Nevertheless, the team improvised and remedied the situation by removing one set of claws. This solution was sufficient, and the robot was back up and running.

After all was said and done, the team finished 8th overall, a first for the team. Their robot also worked for the entire duration of the competition, yet another first. Although the team didn't win, this year's season was a sign of progress for the program as a whole. However, there were still areas where the team needed to prove, such as organization and time management. This season can absolutely be called a success for the MBA Robotics Team and paves the way for a bright future for the program.

**GETTING A TUNE UP:** 11th Graders Sam Decoster and Aditya Priyadarshi make adjustments just minutes before competing against opposing robots. **PHOTO: WALKER BYRD**







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Jonathan Gluck (MBA '04) - DDS MSD, Specialist in Orthodontics

## Animal Farm Wins Big in Maryville!

*The Bell Ringer* congratulates the cast and crew of *Animal Farm* for their first place finish at the Tennessee Theater Association One Act Competition. The show advances to the South Eastern Theater Competition in Mobile, Alabama next April.





# Thor: Ragnarok Sparks Comparison to Benefits, Perils of MBA Exchange Program

By Isaac Wills  
Entertainment Editor

Taking advantage of the international exchange programs, MBA students have traveled extensively, running the gamut of South Africa, England, Singapore, and... Asgard?! Well, not exactly.

While the home of Thor, the god of thunder, as showcased in Marvel's latest flick *Thor: Ragnarok* is no hot ticket destination for MBA boys, the film at-large may serve as an extension to the experiences of some students, specifically those who went to Australia and New Zealand.

The movie sports a cast headlined by Aussie and Kiwi actors—notably protagonist Chris Hemsworth (Thor) and antagonists Cate Blanchett (Hela) and Karl Urban (Skurge). Moreover, Taika Waititi, a New Zealander, enters the fray as the director for *Thor: Ragnarok* in what was his first stint for Marvel Studios.

The actors and director's hailing from "down under," however, is not simply token; rather, the film incorporates a healthy dose of Aussie and Kiwi humor, several references—both direct and indirect—to other Waititi films, a show-stealing performance by Waititi himself, and of course, the iconic accents. In fact, the film excels in light of these influences.

Senior Carter Smith participated in an international exchange to New Zealand this past summer. Discussing how his travels allowed him to appreciate *Thor: Ragnarok's* nuances, he shared, "When Ben Evans and I were over in New Zealand, we were introduced to a couple Kiwi and Australian shows that we really enjoyed; so, seeing some their humor in a big blockbuster like Thor was awesome. I thought it was great addition to the movie!"

For Marvel diehards, however, the Aussie and Kiwi flavor did not come as a pleasant surprise upon initial screenings of the movie; no, it was a selling point. At Comic-Con 2017, Waititi made frequent jokes, badgering his Aussie cast about their relatively harsher

accents: "It's just the accent—it's like being drilled in the side of the head, all day long. . . like a glass bottle full of nails just shaking in your ears all day."

Karl Urban took one out of Waititi's book, citing how he almost did not make the set of *Thor: Ragnarok*: "When I came into Australia the customs officer asked me if I had a criminal record, and I said, 'Aw mate, I didn't know I still needed one to get in.'"

The on-and-off-screen banter between the cast and crew makes this Thor film feel fresh. This so-called rejuvenation is particularly important for a subsidiary franchise of Marvel's that has been marred by mediocrity and staleness. *Thor* and *Thor: The Dark World*, the first and second films in the series respectively, are two of Marvel's most poorly rated films to date.

Consequently, Kevin Feige's hiring of a new and spunky director in Waititi served as the catalyst necessary to bring the spark back to the franchise. And speaking of Waititi, his aforementioned role in the film was a smashing success.

Waititi plays a character named Korg, an alien made of rocks. Carter Smith held high praise for the character and shared of his many laughs: "Every single one of Korg's lines were hilarious. I don't think there was a single scene he was in where the entire theater wasn't dying laughing. His [Kiwi] accent makes the character, and I never thought I'd laugh so hard at a rock, paper, scissors joke."

Carter affirmed that while his experiences abroad accentuated his watching of *Thor: Ragnarok*, the film is easily accessible to all audiences.

Senior Jack Sullivan, who traveled to France this past summer, is proof of that sentiment: "I liked the reality of *Ragnarok*. Taking after the precedent of the most recent Star Wars film by using minimal special effects and creating real sets, puppets, and costumes, *Ragnarok* paid a lot of attention to detail. Visually it was fabulous, with tons of color and excitement in even the smallest details, like a wall that Waititi pulled from a pattern in a Jack



GOING ON EXCHANGE: Entertainment Editor Isaac Wills suggests parallels between Marvel's latest film and the MBA exchange program. PHOTO: Dan Mumford

Kirby comic."

Jack continued, "There was also an enjoyable story and character to the film unlike previous Thor movies. . . It focused on what works: comedy and action."

Having seen another Waititi film in *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, Jack was able to appreciate the films subtitles in a different light. He noted, "[*Thor: Ragnarok*] reminded me of *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* because they both had a sort of crusade or journey oriented plot. Thor is trying to get back to Asgard to prevent Ragnarok, the apocalyptic destruction of his homeworld, and the protagonist from *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* is trying to evade authorities to avoid life in a state-funded foster child unit."

Jack further connected the dots: "In *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, the search and the authority figures get blown out of proportion as they start a nationwide manhunt to find just one kid. . . Waititi loves

randomness and absurdity in his films, and he [likewise] does a great job of incorporating those elements into [*Thor: Ragnarok*]."

While Jack concurred with Carter about the film's jovial humor, he criticized Jeff Goldblum's character: "The Grandmaster felt far too forced of a joke. Most of Waititi's jokes feel like it's an inside joke that you're in on, but the Grandmaster wasn't the same."

Jack also found Hela, the villain, to be lackluster: "It felt like she just came out of nowhere and had no real reason to wreak havoc."

Yet, criticism was scarce between the pair of seniors. Both agreed that the humor, visuals, and action sequences are well worth the price of admission, and as previously stated, Carter emphasized that MBA students with experiences "down under" will find hidden gems throughout the film.



# Food Review: Martin's BBQ Knows Meat

By Ben Coulthard  
Staff Foodie

Before I even walked in Martin's BBQ, I knew I was going to be in for a treat. The smoky smell of meat permeated the air as I walked through the parking lot to begin my quest for some of the best BBQ in Nashville.

Owner Pat Martin started



**HOG HEAVEN:** Martin's BBQ is turning into a BBQ powerhouse in Nashville and its surrounding area.

his quest for meat perfection in Nolensville, TN (a location I am proud to say I have previously visited) in a small little brick and mortar with a smoker out front. I visited the location at Belmont Boulevard, one of four Martin's

locations in the Nashville area. There is also a Louisville location and one in Morgantown, West Virginia.

The inside of the store is littered with relics of Southern culture, from a picture of WWF legend Ric Flair to photographs signed by Tennessee Titans legends. I had to wait in a long line of people, but boy, the wait was well worth it.

I ordered a medley of cured meats with baby back ribs, a pulled pork platter, and a brisket burger. The side dishes of baked beans, green beans, and cornbread were perfect complements to the meal. And, might I add, free Moon Pies were offered next to the drink machine. A definite plus.

As a self-proclaimed connoisseur of BBQ, I dug into the meal with great excitement and anticipation. The pulled pork was juicy and tender, two qualities instrument to the success of any pork. With the

undercarriage of a corn cake that soaked up the juices of the pulled pork, I wasn't truly finished once the pork was gone.

The baked beans went well with the baby back ribs, as the restaurant added little pieces of brisket meat to the beans. With the mixture of maple and brown sugar as well as cayenne pepper, the beans were a sweet and savory taste. When I came to the baby back ribs, the meat wasn't quite fall of the bone tender, but there was just enough tenderness to keep the ribs from being super rubbery and unable to be eaten. The best part about the ribs was the dry rub that Martin's put on the meat during cooking preparation. Dubbed the "Big Hoss Rub" by Martin's, the dry rub was the perfect combination of spicy, sweet, and salty to please my taste palette.

I saved the best part of my meal for last in the brisket burger. The sandwich consisted of a burger patty, brisket, melted cheese, and sauteed onions with the optional addition of BBQ sauce. Put simply, this construction is my favorite hamburger creation I've ever had. The combination of meats

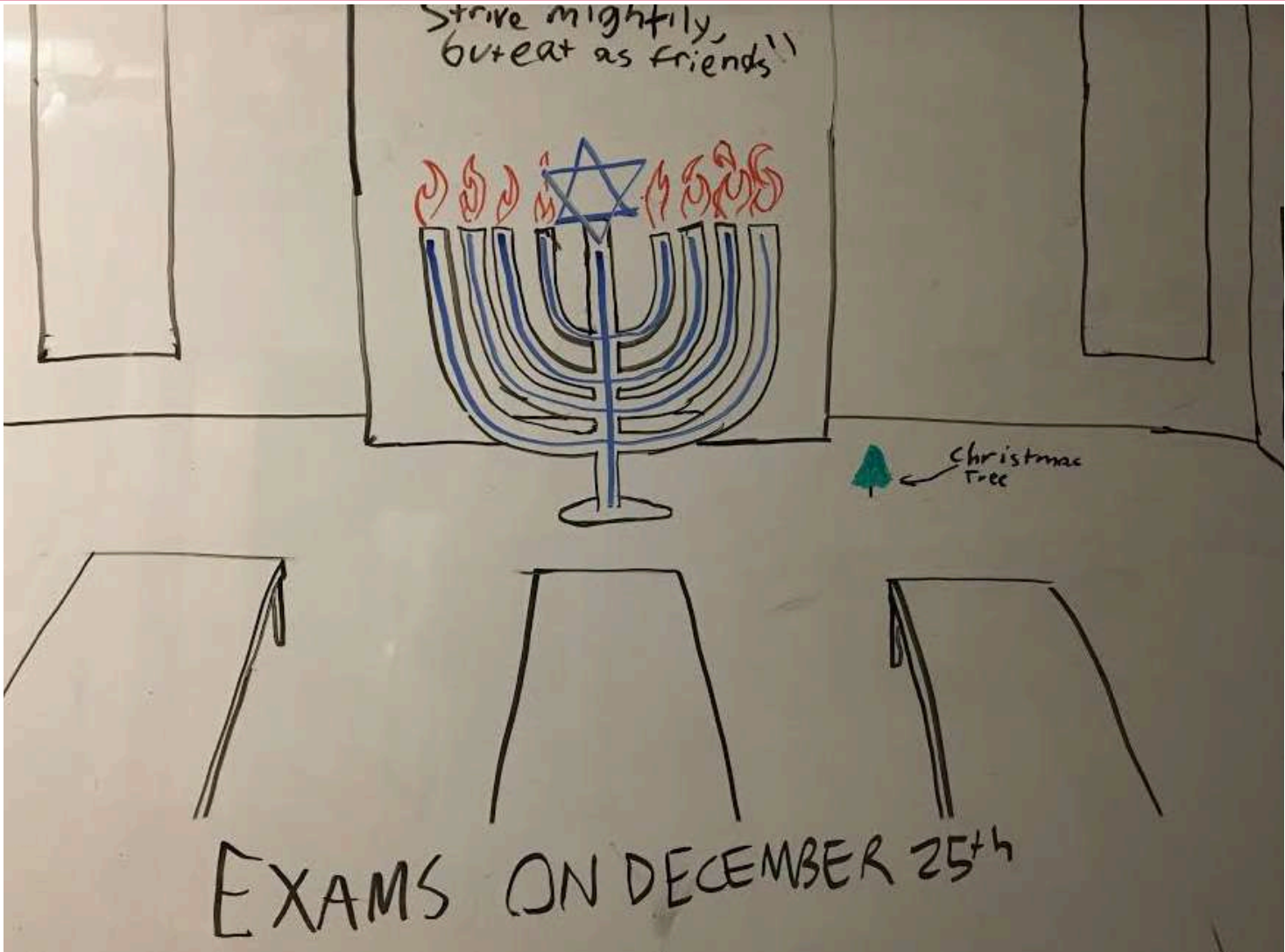


**BEST IN TOWN:** The brisket burger is a must have a Martin's if you visit. **PHOTO:** The Tennessean

complemented by the hot onions and melty cheese come together to be the best creation on Martin's entire menu.

With Nashville becoming a hotspot for BBQ restaurants, Martin's should rank high on anyone's list who wants a solid meal for BBQ.

**Final verdict:** Martin's gets 5 hogs out of 5



**HOLIDAY SPIRIT:** Hanukkah falls right on the days of exams this year. **CARTOON CREDIT:** Mickey Kelly ('20)



# MBA XC: A Disappointing Finish with a Bright Future

By Matthew Kaplan  
Staff Runner

The MBA Cross Country team did not quite finish the season as hoped. Injuries plagued a talented team that had a lot of inexperience.

At the JV finale and Metro Championship, the JV squad finished first overall, with an impressive triumph over Father Ryan and every other local schools. Will Crawford finished first overall in a slew of MBA medal winners. The Varsity squad finished second in a close contest against Father Ryan. Graham Ragsdale finished first for the team, as he consistently did this season. Unfortunately, varsity runner Parker O'Neal went down with a hamstring injury on a bad fall down Steeplechase's most infamous hill. While the team was not satisfied with second, the runners definitely showed out and put on a productive performance.

The State Championship arrived a few weeks later on an unluckily warm Saturday. While Parker O'Neal made his return from injury, he unfortunately went down with the same hamstring bothering him and was unable to finish the race. In the final stretch of the 5K, Tillman Dean collapsed from hypothermia and was also unable to finish the race. The result was the finish of only 5 runners, all of whom scored: Graham Ragsdale, Luke Mrynca, Jack Larish, John Hyde, and Isaac Wills. The team finished in 6th place, just behind Father Ryan once again. Graham Ragsdale did earn his first all-state cross country

**TONGUE OUT:** Isaac Wills runs to the finish line at the end of the City meet.



recognition.

Coach Russ described the team's general frustration following the state meet: "I was disappointed with the team's result at State, less because sixth place is bad and more because our performance at State did not match what we are capable of doing if we run well. It is frustrating to have people work hard for months and then not run well in the race that the whole training program is designed for."

While the season's finish was unfortunate and disheartening, it doesn't paint the whole picture of this year's overall cross country season. The team shared great moments of triumph in both races and practices, and enjoyed constant camaraderie and brotherhood through heat, rain, and early mornings.

Coach Russ said of the team culture: "I cannot remember a team that has laughed together so much or enjoyed being around each other so much. Small groups of guys always get close through running together day after day. This team is somewhat unusual in the way it bonded across grade levels and running abilities."

Jack Sullivan described his four year tenure on the team and its impact on him: "Cross country has been a formative experience for me throughout high school. When I showed up as a little chub freshman year, the team welcomed me to the high school and made me feel included, especially the seniors... Senior year for me was great because I came back running the

fastest I had ever run. I worked my way up to be a consistent scorer for the JV team. One difference was that I got to run in a group for the first time. In years past I had been alone in most of my races, but this year I was consistently with the same group of four or five guys during races. I also won a second Tour de Pants title, awarded to the winner of a week long team competition topped off with an ultimate frisbee tournament. As a senior, I got to take



**ON THE CLOCK:** Members of the Big Red cross country team begin their meet.  
**PHOTO:** Big Red Photos

on more of a leadership role on the team as well."

When asked about his take on the team atmosphere, Sullivan replied: "The team has been great. Working hard together draws us closer, and we all have grown to enjoy spending time together. There's something about getting out on a run and just letting loose with your teammates. You grow really close through it all. And of course the team has some pretty great people on it, which really makes it a fun environment."

Another senior leader and the class of 2018's representative in the varsity race, Isaac Wills, stated, "It has been an auspicious pleasure running with the MBA

cross country team as I have learned skills of dedication, toughness, and teamwork that will long outlast any of the external achievements of my career. This past season has been a particular joy because it was one filled with laughs and pleasant memories. While the State result was certainly disappointing, I know that the young and talented squad will bounce back, and I anticipate tremendous success next year. The state result also gives me and the rest

of the team all the more reason to get excited about spring Track & Field."

Even only looking at the Varsity squad, it is evident that this team has a bright future. Of the Varsity runners, there was a senior, three juniors, two sophomores, and a freshman. Further, the JV team's top finisher was a sophomore, and several freshmen rose up the ranks this year. Finally, Hall Griffith became the first 8th grader in recent memory to earn a varsity letter for cross country. The youth on this team shows that it will be formidable for years to come.

Coach Russ said of the team's youth: "Clearly, we are excited about the future. The top thirteen guys at the end of the season include only one senior with multiple representatives from the junior, sophomore, and freshman classes, plus one eighth grader."

Coach Pruitt simply stated, "The future is bright for the Harriers."

Finally, the most common sentiment gathered from this year's season was simple: "It's a good day to run."



# Believe It: Team 119 Heads to State

By Palmer Thombs  
Sports Editor

Success is nothing new to those around MBA football. After all, the Big Red have won fifteen state championships in their 119 year history. But four state championship appearances in four seasons is nothing to scoff at for any program. While going to Cookeville has almost become a given, it did not feel that way at times for this year's players, Team 119. There were reasons to doubt. There were highs and lows. Nevertheless, the Big Red will be loading buses headed to Cookeville tomorrow.

After a preseason full of questions, the Big Red rolled to a 7-0 start including key wins over Pearl Cohn, McCallie, and Memphis University School. The team had to overcome injuries to several of its stars, including senior running backs Tay Munoz and Michael McGuire to achieve this mark, but some of their biggest games awaited with rivals Ensworth and Brentwood Academy staring MBA down. In preparation for Ensworth, junior tight end Josh Meriwether, who had emerged as one of the Big Red's biggest threats, broke his ankle. The offense struggled to get going that Friday night while the defense kept MBA in the game against the Tigers.

rematch with the Brentwood Academy Eagles. While many of the stars from the previous matchups were gone, the bad blood between the two rivals remained. With McGuire back in the lineup, MBA hoped that their offense would spark the Big Red to a victory in their homecoming game and on senior night. That hope was gone early as MBA fell behind 14-0 within the first two drives. The Eagles continued to roll, taking a 29-0 lead into the half. While the Big Red defense shutout the Eagle offense in the second half, MBA could not catchup and lost 29-0.

Two consecutive losses was uncharted territory for MBA. Many thought that the team couldn't compete with the top of the division, but the Big Red felt otherwise.

Senior offensive lineman Jackson Abbey said, "After starting 7-0, I think we got a little complacent. This is a special team, and we realized [after the losses] that we could either stay down or get back up and fight. It didn't matter how we got the job done, but we were going to win regardless of all that had gone wrong with injuries and calls against us."

In response to the two losses, MBA headed to Chattanooga to take



**SENIORS:** The 17 seniors from Team 119 pose for one last photo at Tommy Owen. **PHOTO:** Carolyn Thombs Photography

It looked like the night would be all Big Red. The Red Raiders felt otherwise.

Baylor fought back with hopes of getting a win on their senior night and ruining MBA's chances at a playoff bye. Seventeen unanswered points gave the Red Raiders a 17-7 lead before MBA got back on the board. Ty Allen led the team down the field with under a minute left in the half and connected with Jackson McFadden for the score. Trailing 17-14 at the half, MBA knew that they had to respond as the coaches challenged the defense to step up their game.

Senior middle linebacker Clay Garstin said, "We knew that Baylor was a run heavy team and that they did that very well. Stopping their powerful running backs would lead to big stops deep in our territory, give the offense great field position, and help the team win. That is what the coaches' challenge to us was."

Garstin and the defense responded to the coaches' call. Fenner Pollock led the defensive effort with an interception while a key sack by junior defensive end, Dominic Fisher, gave the Big Red offense the field position that they needed. Ten second half points was all MBA needed as Pollock broke up Baylor's two point attempt for the win. MBA snuck away with a 24-23 victory and secured the second seed for the upcoming playoffs.

While MBA hoped it would get a shot at revenge against Ensworth after their bye, Baylor knocked off the Tigers and advanced to play MBA once again. Out for revenge, the Red Raiders fought hard as the self proclaimed road warriors. Just like the second half of their regular season matchup, the playoff game was a defensive battle. At the half it was 0-0, but Michael McGuire finally broke free for a rushing score.

On the next play from scrimmage, linebacker Jackson Hannah forced a

fumble that was recovered by junior defensive lineman Ian Hall. That set up another quick score on a Ty Allen run from eight yards out. The 14-0 run gave MBA the momentum they needed to finish the game and come away with a 14-7 victory in what would be the final home game for this year's senior class.

The Big Red rolled on for the season's third trip to Memphis for a matchup with the undefeated Christian Brothers Purple Wave. In a game very similar to the previous week's against Baylor, MBA's defense set the tone early on by shutting down the Brothers. The game once again went to the half with a scoreless tie. The Big Red finally found the endzone early in the fourth quarter as Ty Allen connected with Clint Blackwell for the game's first score. On the following Christian Brothers drive, defensive lineman Harrison Graves picked off the Purple Wave and set up the Big Red with a short field inside the Brothers five yard line.

MBA responded once again with a connection between Allen and Blackwell as the Big Red took a 14-0 lead. The Purple Wave got in the endzone late in the game, but it wasn't enough to stop the Big Red from rolling back to Cookeville.

Garstin praised the defensive effort saying, "Christian Brothers was another run heavy team with a big offensive line, but we did our best to eliminate that part of their offense."

Tomorrow night, the Big Red will once again square off with Brentwood Academy for all the marbles. For the seniors, they will look to end their careers on a high note, with a ring. Few expect MBA to win, but fewer expected MBA to be here. The Big Red have been preparing for this game since the hottest days of summer, and Team 119 is ready for the challenge.

Senior offensive lineman Wesley Hall said, "We know that the odds are completely against us. We don't care."



**BALLGAME:** #7 Clint Blackwell scores the go-ahead TD versus Christian Brothers. **PHOTO:** Carolyn Thombs Photography

A Ty Allen touchdown tied things up before the half, but a second half Tiger field goal acted as the deciding factor as Ensworth prevailed in the defensive battle, 10-7.

A bye week gave MBA time to recover from their first loss, as the Big Red prepared for a state championship

on the Red Raiders of Baylor knowing they were in for a physical game. And that's just what they got. On the first drive, the offensive line dominated and enforced their will as MBA drove 80 yards and took over eight minutes off the clock on their way to a touchdown.



# Big Red Hockey Cruises to Midpoint of Season

By Michael Garcia  
Staff Zamboni Driver

As Christmas break and exams creep up on MBA, the Big Red Hockey team has almost reached the midpoint of its season. Since October, the Big Red have played through six games, having dominated almost all of them.

The team's first game back was against none other than their archrival Ravenwood. Both teams came out hard and played a high intensity back and forth hockey game. The teams exchanged a few one goal leads until the end of the game, when Ravenwood took a late third period one goal lead. The Raptors would come out of this game on top 4-3, as the Big Red suffer their first regular season loss since 2015. It was a tough

varsity team. In the next game, the Big Red defeated Lipscomb/BA 10-1. This game presented a bump in the road, as one of the team's leading goal scorers Robert Cowan received a three game suspension. The loss of one of the Senior leaders proved to be only another test to the depth of the team, and they would not fail to impress. In the first game without Cowan, the Big Red proved they had a deep roster. The Big Red defeated Ensworth/Oakland 10-1 and had 10 different goal scorers in the game. They would show the same depth in their next two games, shutting out their next two opponents Franklin/Hume-Fogg by a score of 10-0 and Centennial-Page by a score of 9-0. It was clear that the team had no lack of scoring without Cowan, and when asked



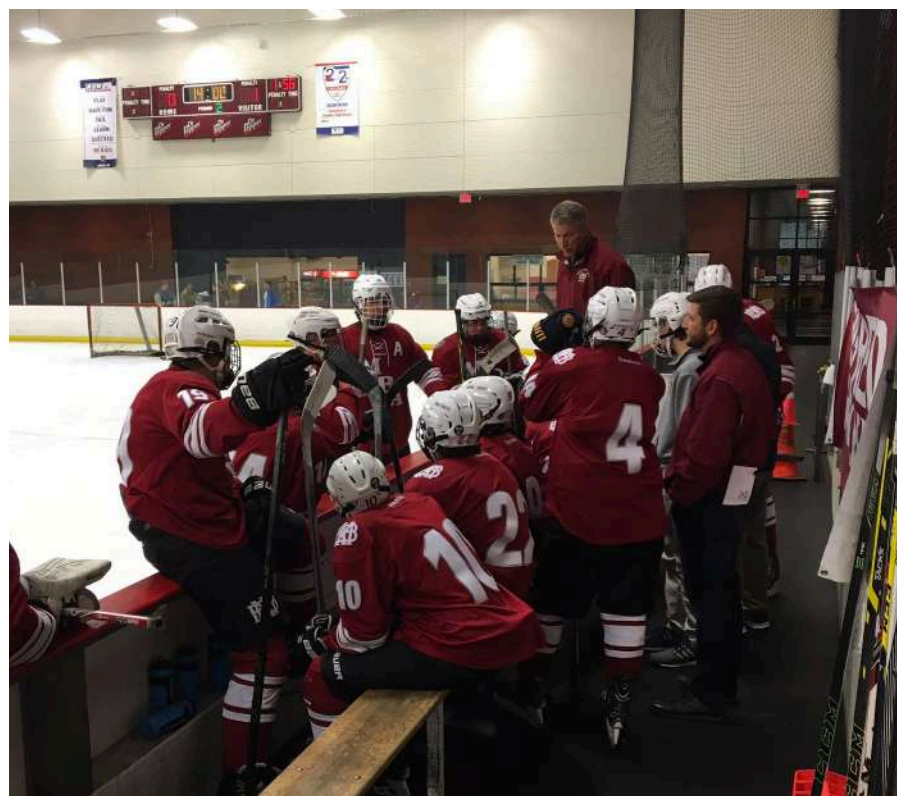
**IN TROUBLE:** Robert Cowan spends some time in the box after committing a penalty.

Surman is second on the team with 7 goals and 8 assists for a total of 15 points. Senior captain Blake Robison is third with 5 goals and 9 assists for 14 points, and sophomore Clayton Malone has 6 goals and 6 assists for 12 points. At this point in the season, each of these players has at least 2 points per game, an outstanding achievement. Morin also leads the league in both assists and points. In addition to the skaters, Senior goalie Isaac Sedek has an unbelievable 0.970 save percentage and a fantastic 0.32 goals against per game, as well as 3 shutouts, an

impeccable performance for his first season on varsity. Sedek also leads the league with the best save percentage and most shutouts.

The Big Red will finish out the calendar year with 3 more games before the break, including a clash against the top team in the standings, Brentwood High School. The team looks to continue its dominant performance against its opponents, and continue to grow as a team so that they can peak at the right time, right before the state tournament.

**TEAM TALK:** Coach Tim Kovick tries to instill some knowledge in his team.



**THEIR YEAR:** MBA Hockey seeks to win the GNASH league for the first time.  
**PHOTO:** MBA Hockey

pill to swallow for the team, but at the same time it was a learning experience. This year, the regular season would not be a breeze as it had been the past two years. So, the Big Red would have some work to do if they wanted to get back to the top.

After the loss to Ravenwood, the team came roaring back in their next 5 games, absolutely dominating the competition. First, the Big Red defeated JPII handily 10-0, while Isaac Sedek picked up his first career shutout on the

about how the team played without him, Cowan was excited by the performance he saw sitting rink side: "Being suspended I learned from mistakes, but the team has played really well without me. They've played the best hockey without me".

In addition to the outstanding team performance, there have been several fantastic individual stats. Senior Josh Morin leads the team in points with 6 goals and 11 assists for a total of 17 points. Junior Brandon MacDonald-



# MBA Bowling: Striking Fear in Opponents

By Ben Coulthard  
Staff Pin Striker

(Editor's Note: This issue went to print before the beginning of the bowling playoffs)

After two years of being considered one of Division II's premier bowling squads, the Big Red Bowlers took on the 2016-17 season looking to rebound from losing four seniors who had anchored the team for their four years as members. Things went about as expected in the rebuilding year and the team finished with a 2-14 record. While the record certainly was not the way the team wanted the year to end, many positives were taken away. New leadership emerged after the loss of former captain, Jackson Wooten. Numerous underclassmen got their first experience bowling in matches. The team as a whole learned how to rebound from hardship. After this tough season, MBA Bowling was ready to move forward.

Coming into the 2017 season, every starter from the previous year's team returned, and the Big Red welcomed back a former face in junior Alex Hasse who had taken the previous year off from bowling. Led by senior captain Trace Fontana as well as senior Ben Coulthard, the team was primed to return to the level of play of years past. Fontana said "It was really important to me and other veterans

of the program to get back to where we were 3 years ago, and to have finally gotten back to bowling with that same intensity is a great feeling." It was evident with the intensity of preseason practices that no one wanted a repeat of last year's disappointing outcome.

The bowling format this year was slightly different from years past, as three new teams were

**"To have finally gotten back to bowling with that same intensity is a great feeling."**

introduced as members of the DII Middle Region. It was also announced that state tournament qualification at both the individual and team level would change. Because of the addition of Goodpasture, Nashville Christian, and Lipscomb, the length of the season was also shortened, going to 10 matches from 16. This meant that attention to detail in every match would be necessary because one slip up could be the difference between a playoff bye or having to bowl in the first round.

The beginning of the season was marked by three consecutive wins, most notably against rival Ensworth. After this performance, the Big Red sent a message to the rest of the league that they meant business. Last year was no longer, and opponents could not overlook the team. After this 3-0 performance, the team's performance was noticed, earning a ranking as high as #2 by Tennessee Prep Bowling.

However, the Big Red was not able to rest on laurels for too long as the team had a four game stretch where they had to face three of the top four teams in the division. Four losses to JP II, Ezell-Harding, Friendship Christian, and DCA followed the team's hot start to the season. After this stretch, the team

had a decision to make: would they put their tails between their legs and quit or would they bounce back from hardship and work to turn around the season?

Determined to make the season a success, the Big Red Bowlers rattled off four straight wins. The team used the adversity they faced as a turning point, as the lessons learned in bowling premier teams helped lead the Big Red to victory. With significant contributions from underclassmen in John Wallace, Flynn McRae, and Charlie Hansen, the Big Red got help from every member of the team. The final win against FRA was significant for the team, as it meant the Big Red would finish with a winning record.

With the end of the regular season, the Big Red finished with a 7-5 record and the #6 seed entering the regional tournament. Captain Trace Fontana was excited with the momentum the team carried into the postseason, saying "As we head into the playoffs the team is bowling with great intensity and enthusiasm. We all know what this team is capable of and are excited for this week coming off of thanksgiving."



**KINGPINS:** Seniors Ben Coulthard (left) and Trace Fontana (right) will attempt to finish their four-year careers with a state championship.



**DESTINED FOR A RUN:** The MBA Bowling team looks to return to the state tournament as a team.

**PHOTO:** Coach Jonathan Creamer





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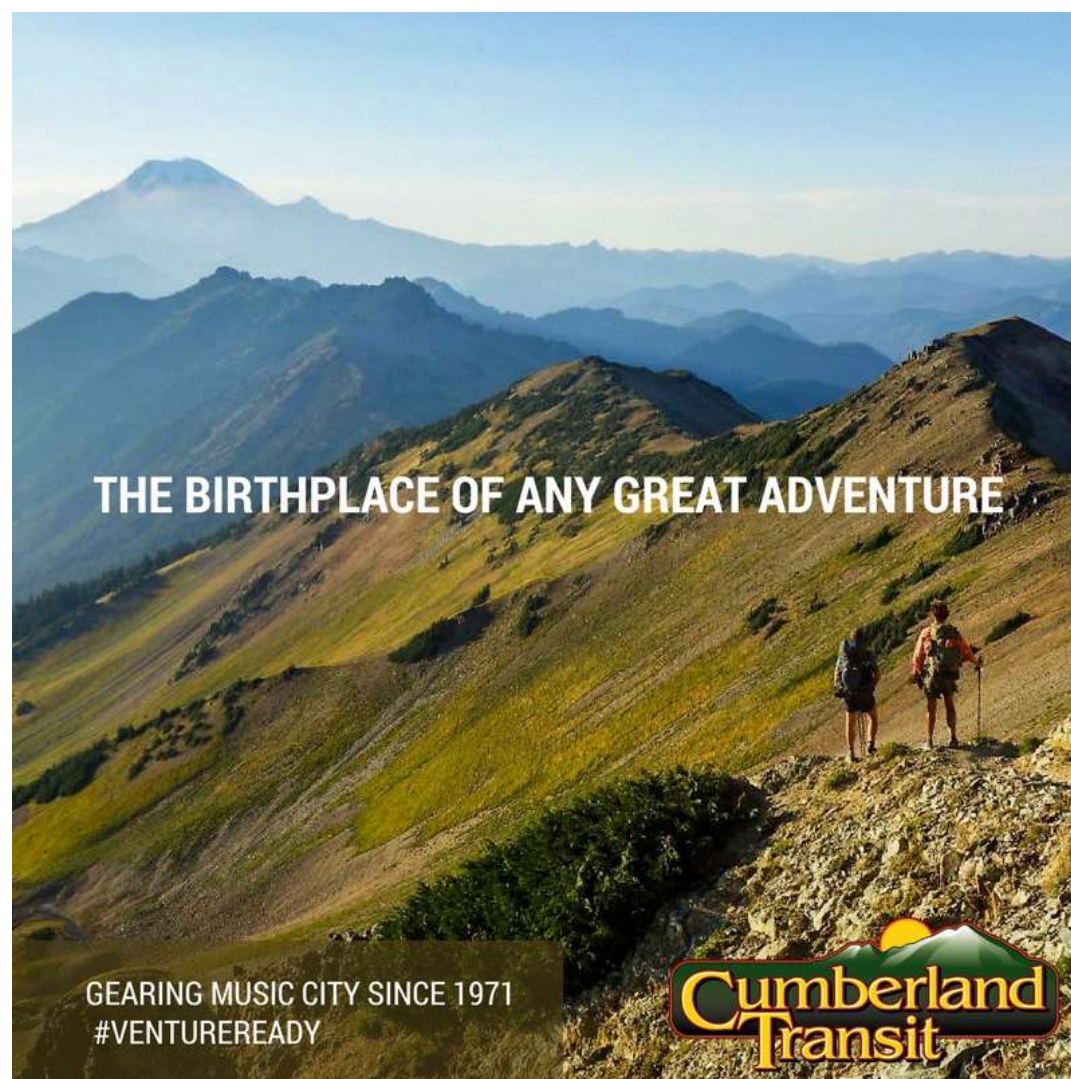
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## Sophomore Rave Displays Futility of Youth

By Matthew Kaplan and Zach Brown  
Staff Legal Team

The sophomore class has enjoyed a period of sustained growth. Well, perhaps not enjoyed but at least experienced. The biggest event since homecoming was supposed to be the 11/11. However, because apparently a sophomore rave does not take priority over everything else on the Hill, the glow-in-the-dark tie-dye pool party was changed to 11/18 and creatively called "The 18."

Sophomore year is supposed to be a time of great change, and it seems our class is up to the challenge. Our class needs to focus on changing into our better selves. Whether it's **Will Farner** changing his glasses, or **Thomas Miller**'s changing after his own spiritual awakening, or at least arriving at "The 18's" afterparty, we sure aren't disappointed. However, not all change is physical, as **Zach Brown** showed us this Thanksgiving break. We should also keep in mind that not all change is positive. For example, changing the library projector to play *Call of Duty World War Two* is deemed inappropriate even if **Graham Holzapfel** did get a high score on zombies. Speaking of change, it's

unclear whether **Peter Hall** changed schools or if he just shows up at MBA once in awhile to hang around.

Sophomore year is also supposed to be a time of grinding: grinding to finish that theme, grinding to finish studying for a test, and grinding for the upcoming research paper, which everyone surely has already begun to prepare for. Apparently, the class of 2020 didn't get the memo that the grinding is supposed to be in the classroom, not at "The 18."

Speaking of "The 18," the main purpose of the event was clearly to promote our class and raise money. We had two goals.

First, we definitely represented our class well. Everyone was gentlemanly, appropriate, and respectful. Not to be confused with the guy who came in who didn't go to MBA, who was easily spotted by "The 18" security guard, **McGavock Cooper**, and tossed out of the dance. I guess late-night Sonic runs, early morning breakfasts, and ice cream trips to Whole Foods do prepare you for the real world. **Gav** didn't stop all non-MBA men, however, as ex-class of 2020 member **William (Sully) Sullivan** made an appearance at the event. Everyone was excited to have

Sully back, hoping that, as a changed man, he can make a return next school year. But we're getting ahead of ourselves.

Secondly, the class hit big with the financial goals. Yes, we did fall \$300 short of what it would take to break even, but we had huge success when it came to not having to pay for DJ Drawgz' \$3000 equipment. Don't worry though, Drawgz fans: a GoFundMe has already been created to help cover the damage done by the absolutely wild ragers at "The 18," and don't worry, it's moving rapidly towards its goal. In fact, the GoFundMe has its goal at \$4000, which seems suspiciously higher than \$3000, and even more dramatically higher than the amount raised thus far: somewhere between \$19 and \$21. Thanks, **Kiran**.

There is no doubt, though, that "The 18" was a success. Just ask **John Hyde** and **Noah Mendoza**, who got the chance to forget for the night that tricks are, in fact, for kids.

The Class of 2020 completely willingly decided to go to the theater on a Wednesday night in order to discuss some legal realities. The impressive group of panelists led by Ms. Williams told us important

information that resonated with the class and changed their attitude about things.

Now, as we approach the end of the first semester, let's remember what's important: raising money for the class fund and staying honorable. Whether it's bringing food in for a bake sale, signing up for concessions, or helping set up for the next wild rave, we all have our part to play in this community on the Hill.



# Juniors Think they are Seniors, Act Like Sophomores

By Sam Dugan  
Staff Writers

This year has arguably been the most eventful year thus far for the 2019 class. We have had many victories and also our fair share of losses as well. Nonetheless, we have made some unforgettable memories.

Homecoming in itself produced some of the best and worst of times for boys this year. For **Gibby “Mr. Steal Your Girl (Matthew Haley’s girl)” Gibson**, it was most certainly the greatest night of his life. We are happy for the young boy Gibby, yet saddened with the significant loss that **Matthew “Yard Work” Haley** took as a result of Gibby’s successful night. For **Tye “Jake” Herbstreit** and **Cole “Big Truck” Turner**, the story was very similar. We don’t need to go into details on that one. The most important thing we need to acknowledge is that **“Dirty” Sut**, or **Andrew Sutphin** had a great night. He dubbed the night “The Best Homecoming in History.” It was not the same, however, for our Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete, **Nikhil “Alex Massad” Peterson**. He took his fair share of losses that October

night and said that “my life is now over.” We are sorry to hear that such a fine young man had to deal with these issues. **Joel “I got a 5 on the AP exam” Elasy** decided to skip the night altogether and attend a Vanderbilt women’s basketball game. As always, **William “Hammerhead” Wheeler** took the record for the night with 76 Ls. This man obviously has his priorities straight. On behalf of the 2019 class, we would like to thank all those involved for a wonderful evening.

As expected, Junior Class celebrity **Garrett “No shirt” Murphy** has continued to make headlines. We all know him as being a world class body builder, Grammy award-winning musical artist, and a national champion surferboarder. However, no one knew that he was a world champion marathon runner! As seen in his Instagram over the weekend, he competed in the annual Turkey Trot Marathon World Championships in Jacksonville, Florida. He approached the race and the officials told him he could not compete because he did not qualify. However, Mr. Murphy would not be denied and proceeded to take off his

shirt. The race officials immediately changed their minds. They were so amazed with what they saw that they awarded him the top seed in the race, and as expected, he prevailed as the champion. Of course, following the victory, he posted a great shirtless Instagram photo including a #noflex. We are so proud of our leader. Along with his running abilities, Murphy also revealed to his millions of fans that he is now able to do a full backflip on the beach. A video of him achieving this feat could be seen via snapchat (add him @garrettmurphy1). We are excited to see what this man does next!

Following the colossal failure of the Sophomore class that was the “11-18”, DJ Drawgz, Pupil, and the entire Junior Class Events Committee is ready to get working on the highly anticipated 3-10 event in the Spring. Drawgz has promised that the upcoming event will be “The 408 on steroids.” Those are some strong words, but we do not doubt the man one bit. More information will be sent out about the event in the following weeks. I heard a rumor that there will be a live performance of “Spooky Special” by the anonymous new rap



**WE GET IT:** Many Juniors have reflected how hard it is to uphold some of the body images set by their classmates. **PHOTO:** Instagram

duo of the 2019 class.

We would finally like to give a special shoutout to **Grant “Pearly Whites” Ellison** for just continuing to look good every single day.

## Seniors Realize None of this Actually Matters

By Thomas Carr and Jack Crawford  
Staff Gentlemen

With the end of the semester on the horizon, it has become obvious that very few people still care about school. With the journey winding down, the senior slide is naturally ramping up. Although grades still technically matter until after Christmas break, this historic class seems to be embracing an early relaxation period. That is, everyone besides **Jackson Abbey** and the Latin V crew who never stop grinding. In other academic news, Professor has made his permanent mark as the wisest man on the hill. Keep up the intelligent work! In college news, 25 students applied early to UVA and around 10 did the same to Vandy. We are hopeful for all of the wishful applicants, but don’t get your hopes too high, as we know **Jake McSween** will be taking one of your spots if he has to implement his fallback option.

In the extracurricular realm, fantasy football crunch time is in full effect. The League of Zach’s Peps has seen its ups and downs with the Sacko still up for grabs. Another fun extracurricular activity has been the weekly Taco Bell runs. **Stephen**

**Dashiff’s** inability to resist the temptation of the Bell continually leads him to give in to the demands of others. Special thanks to **Josh Morris** and **Evans “Watch Yo’ Mouf Now” Looney** for always contributing to the cash fund at the family table. Considering sleep as an extracurricular, **Ray Lee** is blowing the field away. His dedication to catching the maximum amount of z’s possible, no matter the situation, is more than applaudable. We commend your efforts, Ray.

The senior class is, hands down, the most athletic class at MBA. From key football players, to stellar basketball players, to all-star bowlers **Ben Coulthard** and **Trace Fontana**, it is looking like MBA athletics may suffer next year. Fortunately, we do not care about next year and will continue our conquest for as many state runner-ups as possible. Not only are the senior athletes dominant at MBA, but they also thrive in the realm of churchball. Churchball has a similar magnitude as the varsity sports on the hill. With a few MBA senior teams easily the favorites for the title, the league should be in store for an exciting year ahead.

On a serious note, we wish the

football team the best of luck this weekend and want to encourage everyone to come out and support your fellow brethren. Roll red and be a rowdy gentleman.

We would like to conclude this class news by paying a special tribute to an undervalued member of the class of 2018. This comrade we speak of is none other than **Cal Bryan**. Day in and day out, Cal works his butt off, constantly grinding with the final goal of serving our country at West Point. Dilly dilly to you, Cal, for you are a true friend of the crown. Finally, a special congratulations to the Bend brothers for finally escaping the pit of misery. Dilly dilly to y’all as well!

P.S. **Palmer Thombs** is still the class stud. Good luck on exams, gents!



**DRESSED FOR SUCCESS:** Thomas Carr poses in his nightgown, ready to study for exams a full three weeks in advance. **PHOTO:** Thomas Carr



# Fashion on the Hill: Jackets



**MBA Athletic Hoodie:** Nothing says “7th Grade” like a mass-ordered MBA athletic hoodie. Although this piece of clothing has the durability of a sheet of single-ply toilet paper, it is worn by determined junior schoolers when the temperature is below 0 or above 100 degrees. Many teachers, such as Mr. Anderson and Mr. Spiegel, have grown so tired of seeing the hoodie that they have decided to make their tests as grueling as possible in hopes that they can sweat the hoodies off of their students. So far, their attempts have been unsuccessful. Similarly, many graduates of MBA have confirmed a rumor that the hoodie can only be removed after a student fails his first test. Such a claim sheds light on the mystery of why the smartest students in each class often take the longest to cast off their hoodies.

**Barbour Jacket:** A classic from across the pond, these jackets can be seen sprouting up on campus whenever the weather starts to turn a bit chilly (anything under 85 degrees). Don’t pretend you have ever put birds into the “game pouch.”

**Tweed Jacket:** Nothing says pretentious academia quite like a nice tweed jacket. In 1981, after the film *Chariots of Fire* was released, the board of trustees was so moved that they mandated every teacher own a jacket. Some teachers, doctors, and Lechturers have, of course, taken the mandate as a sort of challenge to see how far they can go to prove to everyone that they are different from the students they teach.

**Varsity Jacket:** If you have ever wanted a jacket that doubles as a glorified participation trophy and one of the loudest pieces of clothing known to man, get yourself a varsity jacket. Not only will the swoosh of the satin jacket distract your classmates when they are trying to take a test, but it will also let everyone on campus know where you are, always. The qualifications for attaining a jacket in a sport differ in amount of time but are equal in effort. For example, it takes about three years to get one from playing football or wrestling and only a week to get one for rifle. Again, different in amount of time, equal in effort.

